**Availability of Telephones**

*165. SHRI C.Q. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the availability of telephones per one lakh population during the period of 1998—2001, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government have failed to take Bihar and West Bengal into priority list to improve the situation as these States stand at the lowest in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The information regarding availability of telephones per one lakh population during the period 1998—2001 State-wise is given in the Statement (*See* below)

While tele-density in Bihar and West Bengal is relatively lower than the national average, every effort is being made to accelerate the development of telecommunication facilities in these States. A Special Task Force has been set up under the charge of a Senior Deputy Director General to, *inter-alia*, give special attention to accelerated development of telecom facilities in these States and every effort is made to supply equipments necessary for this purpose.

**Statement**

*State-wise Tele Density (No. of Telephones) per One Lakh Persons*

| *Sl. No.* | *Name of State* | *March,98* | *March,99* | *March,2000* | *March,2001* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andaman & Nicobar | 2290 | 4220 | 6340 | 8442 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 1580 | 2110 | 2950 | 4056.5 |
| 3. | Assam | 630 | 820 | 1040 | 1330 |
| 4. | Bihar | 410 | 510 | 630 | 865.6 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 2740 | 3230 | 3960 | 5166.27 |
| 6. | Haryana | 2230 | 2680 | 3240 | 4046.4 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 2860 | 3440 | 4250 | 5919.6 |
| 8. | Jammu & Kashmir | 950 | 1110 | 1310 | 1723 |
| 9. | Karnataka | 2420 | 2850 | 3510 | 4676.7 |
| 10. | Kerala | 3410 | 4230 | 5270 | 7636.3 |
| 11. | Madhya Pradesh | 1040 | 1200 | 1370 | 2011.33 |
| 12. | Maharashtra | 4240 | 3738 | 4900 | 7239.24 |
| 13. | North East | 990 | 1250 | 1560 | 2078.78 |
| 14. | Orissa | 760 | 940 | 1108 | 1494.78 |
| 15. | Punjab | 3740 | 4490 | 5290 | 6771.3 |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 1460 | 1760 | 2070 | 2471 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 3510 | 2710 | 4280 | 5904.58 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | 1010 | 820 | 1230 | 1653.58 |
| 19. | West Bengal | 1610 | 1970 | 2330 | 2660.48 |
| 20. | Delhi | 12070 | 12230 | 13020 | 17395 |
| | TOTAL (average): | 1840 | 2200 | 2660 | 3560 |

NOTE: Gujarat State includes Dadar Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli (U.T.).
Kerala State includes Lakshadweep (U.T.).
Maharashtra State includes Goa and Mumbai
North-East telecom circle includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura State.
Punjab State includes Chandigarh (U.T.).
Tamil Nadu State includes Chennai and Pondicherry (U.T.).
West Bengal State includes Calcutta and Sikkim State.
Bihar State includes Jharkhand State (Formed in March, 01).
Madhya Pradesh State includes Chhattisgarh State. (Formed in March, 01).
Uttar Pradesh State includes Uttaranchal State. (Formed in March, 01).

**Amendment of CAT Act**

*166. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Adminsitrative Tribunal Act, 1985, is proposed to be amended in the near future;